



PFAS Drinking Water Settlements:

Making the Case for Action

Settlements claims deadline: July 31, 2026



1. Billions of Dollars Are on the Table — Here's How to Claim Your Share

PFAS cleanup is costly and long-term. But your utility doesn't have to bear the burden alone or pass it all on to ratepayers.

This is a **historic opportunity** to recover funds from the manufacturers most responsible for contamination: **3M and DuPont**.

Being "in" isn't enough. Systems must complete testing at every source and submit their claims forms by mid-2026 to access the settlements funds.

2. Common Confusion: "We Didn't Opt In"

It's understandable to be unsure about your system's status. Here's how it works:

If your system was eligible for the settlements and didn't opt out, **you are automatically part of the settlements**.



You must still **file claims** to access the funds.

Even if your system was automatically considered a participant in the settlements, without filing a claim, you won't receive any funds.

3. What's at Stake

These are **not** grants, and **not** restricted funds. Recovered dollars can support:

- **PFAS mitigation:** capital and O&M costs
- Other **stalled capital projects**
- Offsetting **rate increases**
- Filling general **budget gaps**

Litigation has become a powerful cost-recovery strategy for municipalities and utilities – and this is one of the largest examples to date.

The settlements require testing at each wellhead or surface water intake — something UCMR5 didn't mandate. Additional sampling may be necessary to meet this requirement.

4. Getting Started is Simple: What You'll Need

You don't need to compromise other priorities to take advantage of the settlements. If you choose the right legal partner, much of the process can be handled on your behalf – **at no upfront cost.**

Here is what's typically needed to get started:

1. Basic PFAS detection data (even low levels qualify).
2. Any documentation of related costs (if applicable).
3. If you decide to rely on an experienced water contamination litigation firm, they can handle most of the work – including eligibility review, timelines, and paperwork.

This doesn't have to be a heavy lift, but it does have to be done on time. With the right support, your system can unlock major funding with minimal disruption.

5. Key Deadlines

| Settlement | Deadline | Action for Phase 2 Systems |
|-------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 3M & DuPont | July 31, 2026 | Submit Claims Form |
| 3M & DuPont | Aug. 1, 2026 | Submit Special Needs Claims Form |

6. Avoid the Last-Minute Crunch

Waiting until 2026 to start working on your system's PFAS testing and claims can be risky:

- Because UCMR5 didn't mandate source-level testing, additional sampling at each wellhead and intake may still be needed.
- Documentation will need to be prepared
- 2025 end of year + 2026 budgeting season may become a **bottleneck** with many competing priorities at play
- Early action means your agency can move at a **steady pace** and support **budget planning** and funding forecasts

Reminder: Funds recovered from these settlements are unrestricted — they can support PFAS mitigation as well as broader system needs.

Attorney advertising. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome

Don't Wait Start the Conversation:

- ▶ Our team is available for a free, confidential, consultation to discuss your specific situation. If interested, contact Valentina Bieser at: vbieser@slenvironment.com.
- ▶ SL Environmental Law Group has 20+ years of experience representing local governments and utilities in contamination litigation against chemical manufacturers. Since 2003, we have recovered more than \$2 billion for over 400 clients and we currently represent 300+ clients affected by PFAS.